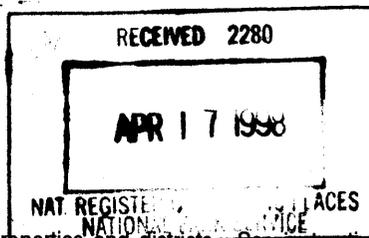


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



525

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oakland Mills Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number County Road W 55 road over Skunk River not for publication

city or town Oakland Mills State Park vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Henry code 087 zip code 51560

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Patricia Churkin DST/PO 4-7-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain):

Ebon H. Beall 5-15-98

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Highway Bridges of Iowa

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

other: pinned Pratt through truss

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wrought Iron

roof

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Located in Oakland Mills State Park, the Oakland Mills Bridge spans Skunk River in a rural Henry County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 2 construction date: 1876
 span length: 140.0' construction cost: \$12,000.00 (approximate cost)
 total length: 358.0' (approx.) current condition: fair
 roadway wdt.: 16.0' alterations: closed to vehicular traffic

superstructure: wrought iron, pin-connected Pratt through truss; one, 4-panel pin-connected Pratt pony approach span on west end; seven steel stringer approach spans and one, 3-panel, pin-connected Pratt pony approach span on east end

substructure: stone abutments and piers; timber pile bent piers at approaches

floor/decking: timber deck over steel stringers

other features: upper chord and inclined end post: 2 channels with cover and batten plates; lower chord: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; vertical: I-beam with 2 continuous plates; diagonal: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; counter: round eyerod with turnbuckle; lateral bracing: looped round eyerod with turnbuckle, round rod with threaded ends; strut: I-beam; floor beam: I-beam; portal strut: I-beam with decorative curved knee braces

Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Oakland Mills Bridge today retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark 'x' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Period of Significance

1876

(The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)

Significant Dates

1876 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Bullder

designer:

Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company

fabricator:

MO Valley B&I Company; Phoenix Iron Co.

builder:

Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company

Criteria Considerations

(Mark 'x' in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
other
name of repository:

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 15 616250 4532280
zone easting northing2 15 616320 4532430
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 18 feet by 358 feet, which is centered on the UTM point(s) listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure, approach spans and floor system.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated structure includes the bridge's superstructure, substructure, floor system, any approach spans and the property on which they rest. These boundaries encompass, but do not exceed, all of the property that has been historically associated with the bridge.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michelle Crow-Dolby
 organization Fraserdesign date 31 August 1994
 street & number 1269 Cleveland Avenue telephone 303-669-7969
 city or town Loveland state Colorado zip code 80537

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7½ or 15 minute series) indicating the property's locationA **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name/title Henry County
 street & number P.O. Box 655 telephone 319-385-0762
 city or town Mount Pleasant state Iowa zip code 52641

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 8 Page 1 **Oakland Mills Bridge** Henry County; Iowa

The Oakland Mills Bridge is a long-span combination through and pony truss with seven steel stringers approaches and one Pratt pony approach span on the east end of the structures. Spanning the Skunk River and located just south of Oakland Mills in Oakland Mills State Park in west-central Henry County, the 358-foot bridge features pinned connections throughout and is supported by a stone and timber substructure. Tracing its history to the summer of 1876, in June county commissioners were considering several locations for a proposed permanent bridge across the Skunk River. Delegates representing the various sites were in attendance at a planning meeting the next month, where they presented arguments and propositions for their particular district. One day later, officials decided to build the structure at Oakland and they quickly advertised for bids for the construction project. Before reviewing the bridge builder's proposals, the bids and specifications were sent to "competent engineers for examination." Once approved, the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company of Leavenworth, Kansas, was ultimately awarded the construction contract with prices set at \$16.25 per lineal foot and \$7.90 per cubic yard for masonry work. The approximate cost of the bridge therefore amounted to close to \$12,000.00. The bridge was specified to be "built wholly of wrought [sic] iron, except the floor and in the Pratt truss plan." Using steel components rolled by the Pennsylvania firm, Phoenix Iron Company, the bridge was completed by MVB&I under the supervision of county engineer, John A. Schreiner. Although closed to vehicular traffic, the Oakland Mills Bridge is a popular spot for picnickers in Oakland Mills State Park, where the bridge retains a high degree of structural integrity.

In the early 1880s, the pin-connected Pratt truss superseded the bowstring arch-truss as the iron bridge of choice for medium-span wagon crossings. Patented in 1844 by Thomas and Caleb Pratt, the Pratt design is distinguished by vertical members acting in compression and diagonals that act in tension. "The Pratt truss is the type most commonly used in America for spans under two hundred and fifty (250) feet in length," noted bridge engineer J.A.L. Waddell wrote in 1916. "Its advantages are simplicity, economy of metal, and suitability for connecting to the floor and lateral systems." Virtually all of the major regional bridge fabricators manufactured Pratt trusses and marketed them extensively to Iowa's counties. This included the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company. Thousands of pinned Pratt trusses were erected throughout Iowa, in both through and pony configurations, and many remain in service today. The Oakland Mills Bridge is distinguished as one of the earliest Pratt through trusses remaining in the state. It is an outstanding, multiple-span example of this mainstay structural type.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Oakland Mills Bridge Henry County; Iowa

Henry County Board of Supervisors' Record, Book C: page 18 (22 June 1876), page 19 (6 July 1876), page 19 (7 July 1876), page 21 (7 July 1876), page 21 (21 July 1876), page 22 (22 July 1876), page 41 (14 November 1876) - located at the Henry County Courthouse, Mt. Pleasant IA.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 26 October 1991.